

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are pending in the present application. Claim 6 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitation of claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by way of the present amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6, 8, 9/6 and 9/8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious by Ishizuka et al. (hereinafter "Ishizuka"). Applicants traverse.

The Examiner has correctly surmised that Applicants' contribution over the prior art is that by requiring the hydrogen ion-selective membrane to be saturated with carbon dioxide gas, Applicants have avoided electric potential drift. See Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance at paragraph 7 of the Office Action. Claim 6 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitation of claim 7, which was not subject to the outstanding rejection. As such, Applicants submit that the outstanding rejection is rendered moot and request withdrawal thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 1-5, 7 and 10-14. The limitation of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 6. Thus, each of the claims contains novel and unobvious subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Monique T. Cole, (Reg. No. 60,154) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

MTC

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